

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 6, 2003 has been received and carefully noted. The following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Claims 1-10 are pending in the application. No new matter has been added. In view of the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Delis et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,119,001). The Office Action alleges that *Delis* teaches all of the limitations of the claimed invention. Applicant respectfully submits that *Delis* fails to teach, suggest or disclose the features of the claimed invention.

Claim 1, upon which claims 2-5 are dependent, recites a method for the management of subscriber functions. The method is used to manage subscriber functions in a telecommunication network. The subscriber functions are stored in records. The subscriber functions consistent with default function sets are stored in default records ($2^{00}, 2^{01}, \dots, 2^{0N}$). The subscriber functions for each default subscriber are read from the default record ($2^{00}, 2^{01}, \dots, 2^{0N}$) concerned. The subscriber functions for each special subscriber are stored in a subscriber-specific record ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) for the subscriber concerned. The subscriber functions for each special subscriber are read from the subscriber-specific record ($2^1, 2^2, \dots, 2^N$) for the subscriber concerned.

Independent claim 6, upon which claims 7-10 are dependent, is similar to claim 1 but recites a system for the management of subscriber functions.

As discussed in the present specification, the present invention significantly accelerates operations concerning subscriber functions. According to conventional devices, changes applied to subscriber functions have to be made separately for each subscriber. However, in the present invention, approximately 90% of the subscribers can be dealt with by applying the changes to default records only, while subscriber-specific modifications only need to be made for the remaining 10% of the subscribers. A further advantage is that the present invention offers an economic method and system for providing storage space because the size of the subscriber database can be reduced to about a tenth. Moreover, queries regarding functions can be performed faster as the default functions can be read from one and the same storage place. It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of *Delis* fails to disclose or suggest the elements of any of the presently pending claims. Therefore, the prior art fails to provide the critical and unobvious advantages discussed above.

Delis discloses a roamer service auto-activation and deactivation system in a home location register. In *Delis*, responsive to an initial registration attempt by a roamer mobile station in a visited wireless telephone network, a procedure is implemented to automatically activate the roamer in the home location register for authorized communication. The activation procedure involves defining the roamer mobile station with a default subscriber profile, and connecting the roamer mobile station with a

temporary subscriber (directory) number. Arrangements are also made to ensure subscriber payment for any network provided wireless telephone services. The default subscriber profile is then downloaded from the home location register in connection with the provision of wireless telephone service to the roamer. Following activation of the roamer mobile station, a timer is started and thereafter monitored for expiration. If the timer expires before the occurrence of a wireless telephone service traffic event regarding the roamer mobile station, the procedure automatically deactivates the roamer in the home location register. The deactivation procedure involves deleting the default subscriber profile, returning the temporary subscriber (directory) number, and closing the billing account for any network provided wireless telephone services.

Applicant respectfully submits that *Delis* fails to anticipate the claims of the present invention. For instance, in comparison to independent claims 1 and 6, *Delis* fails to suggest or disclose partitioning subscriber records into two groups—default records and subscriber-specific records. In the claimed embodiments of the present invention, subscriber functions consistent with default functions sets are stored in default records common to the subscribers. The subscriber functions consistent with each default function set are stored in a separate default record. The subscriber functions for each default subscriber are read when needed from the default record containing the default function set that defines the subscriber functions for the default subscriber in question. The default subscriber refers to a subscriber having subscriber functions corresponding to one of the default function sets. When a default function set is modified, the subscriber

functions for the default subscribers concerned are changed accordingly. Furthermore according to the invention, special subscribers are stored in a subscriber-specific record for each subscriber. Special subscriber refers to a subscriber for whom the subscriber functions are different from the default definitions. Further, the subscriber functions for special subscribers are read when needed from the subscriber-specific records stored for the subscribers in question.

However, *Delis* merely discloses conventional subscriber-specific profiles only for visiting subscribers who are temporarily roaming a given service area. As discussed above in *Delis*, when a roaming mobile station visits a given service area, *Delis* defines the roaming mobile station with a default subscriber profile and connects the roaming mobile station with a temporary subscriber (directory) number to facilitate billing and other reciprocity service agreements which allow a subscriber to roam among and between several service areas and still make and receive telephone calls.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-10 each recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in *Delis*.

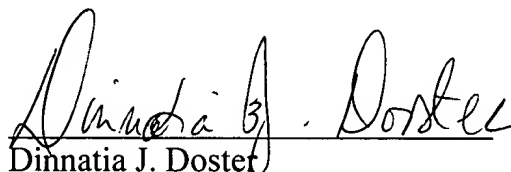
Applicant submits that *Delis* fails to disclose or suggest several limitations of the claimed invention as discussed above. Thus, Applicant submits that certain clear and important distinctions exist between the cited prior art and the claimed invention. Applicant submits that these distinctions are more than sufficient to render the claims of the invention unanticipated by and unobvious in view of the prior art. It is therefore

respectfully requested that claims 1-10 be found allowable, and the application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dinnatia J. Doster", is written over a horizontal line.

Dinnatia J. Doster
Registration No. 45,268

Customer No. 32294
SQUIRE, SANDERS & DEMPSEY LLP
14TH Floor
8000 Towers Crescent Drive
Tysons Corner, Virginia 22182-2700
Telephone: 703-720-7800
Fax: 703-720-7802

DJD:lls